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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
BENIN

IPF:(1992-96) $32 504 000

(BEN/93/G31) - Aménagement participatif des forêts naturelles et Reboisement villageois pour réduction de carbone

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	21 July 1993
Expected duration:	Four years
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Rural Development
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$2 500 000
Source of funds:	Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Project background

The Natural Resources of the Republic of Benin have suffered considerably from irrational management during the last decades. Although Benin does not have a large area of tropical humid forest, it used to be well covered with dry forest and savannah woodlands but these are on a dramatic decline. In a recent study the loss of forest and wooded savannah was estimated at 100.000 hectares annually. (Other estimates go up to 250.000 hectares). Squatters are now moving into the protected areas of forest reserves, hunting zones and National Parks. Notably in the Borgou Province, outside these reserved areas, farmlands are rapidly deteriorating. Both water and wind erosion (through exposure of the soils), and soil depletion are common phenomena, especially in the more densely populated areas of the South and the North-west (Atacora). Production systems are basically still traditional, and not adapted to this new situation. This four-year project will contribute to lowering global warming through the carbon fixation in dry-land and semi-dry land forests and woodlands. This is to be achieved through a sustainable management of natural forests and village lands by associating the local population, at all levels of execution.

Description of project

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) conserve, rehabilitate and sustain management of three forest reserves in the Borgou Province; and (b) implement natural resources management plans for approximately 50 villages. Project activities will include: (a) protection and rehabilitation of degraded forest land (20 to 30.000 hectares) and 500 hectares of village woodlots; (b) upgrading 500 hectares of crop fields through agroforestry and soil conservation

[1/] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

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techniques; (c) training of 5000 thousand farmers in appropriate techniques as well as 14 extension workers to facilitate the access of the population to the government bodies and vice-versa; and (d) providing training for 150 government staff members being in participatory techniques and appropriate technologies for management of natural resources.

Based on the study carried out during the formulation, these activities will allow workers to fix at least 800,000 tons of carbon.

Inputs

UNDP will provide an international socio-economist (24 work-months), national and international consultants (seven work-months) in rapid rural appraisal, forest management, carbon sequestration and support personnel; sub-contracts with national research institutes (scientific follow-up) and NGOs (training, extension); training of farmers and government staff; and equipment and operating costs. The Government will provide personnel (mainly technical officers) and premises directly to the project.

Financial data

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Personnel	999 000
Subcontract	300 000
Training	54 000
Equipment	460 000
Miscellaneous	662 000
Agency costs	25 000
Total	2 500 000

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